

REMARKSRelated Applications

The Examiner's attention is directed to two related applications currently undergoing examination: U.S. Application No. 10/088,253, filed August 28, 2002, currently being examined in Art Unit 2832 by Examiner Easthom; and U.S. Application No. 10/701,992, filed November 4, 2003, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/395,869 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,640,420), currently assigned to Art Unit 3729 (Examiner not yet known).

Amendments

In the descriptive part of the specification, the status of several references has been updated. The title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 9, 10, 13, and 14 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2, 9, and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 1; claims 1 and 8; and claims 11 and 12, respectively. Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been canceled. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to be dependent on claim 2. These amendments have been made in the interest of rapid prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute claims of similar or different scope to the unamended claims in one or more continuation applications. Furthermore, these claims have been rewritten solely to define and recite the present invention in independent form; the amendments associated with these rewritten claims are not in any way related to the Examiner's rejection based on prior art nor any applied or cited prior art.

The Objection to the Drawings

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a), insofar as the objection is applicable to the amended specification. The perspective view of Figure 28 does not allow elements 120 (a laminar metal foil layer) or 123 (solder pads) to be visible, although such elements are shown in Figure 26 (element 120) and Figures 27 and 29 (element 123) and reference to them in the description of Figure 28 is believed to provide useful information. Applicants believe that these structural details are shown in the drawings, and it is submitted that the drawings comply fully with 37 CFR § 1.83(a). Furthermore, Applicants contend that one skilled in the art would readily understand the meaning of each element.

The Rejection Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 11, and 12 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Barrett (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,591) in view of either Thomas et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,331,763) or Fahey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,780,598), insofar as the rejection is applicable to the amended claims. Applicants believe this rejection is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 11, and 12, and the amendment of claims 3 to 8 to make them dependent on an allowable claim.

Disclosure Under 37 CFR § 1.56

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

Accompanying this statement is a Form PTO-1449 in duplicate on which the documents are listed. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered.

The following documents were cited by the European Patent Office in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/US02 39392, which is a counterpart for this application. Two were cited in category “X” as a “document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone”. The remaining document was cited in category “A” as a document “defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance”. A copy of the Search Report is attached.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>
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The following documents were cited during the prosecution of the parent application, Application No. 09/395,869 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,640,420). These documents include the

documents cited in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/US00/25118, which is the counterpart to Application No. 09/395,869, and is related to the present application.

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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/181,028 (Graves et al, filed October 27, 1998); now U.S. 6,651,315.
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The following documents have been cited during the prosecution of Application No. 10/088,253, filed August 28, 2002, which is the U.S. national stage application of International Application No. PCT/US00/25118.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>
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Copies of Documents

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the documents submitted by Applicants during the prosecution of the parent application (Application No. 09/395,869) are not being submitted. Copies of the documents cited by the Examiner during prosecution of that parent application, as well as documents cited for the first time in this Disclosure Statement, are being sent. These documents are identified on the above tables with an *. All of these documents, except as identified below, are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and Applicants will readily supply copies if needed. Copies of the documents cited in the Office Action by the Examiner are not listed on the Form PTO-1449, and are crossed out on the above tables.

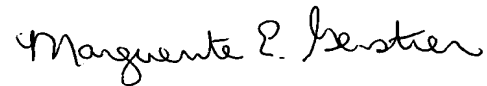
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In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(c)(2), the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for submitting this Information Disclosure Statement (\$180) to Deposit Account No. 18-0560.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marguerite E. Gerstner".

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